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Far be it from us, to throw ridicule or discouragement on any scheme of rational philanthropy. But the generous spirit of individuals ought to be turned away from the wild schemes of notoriety-seeking projectors, or the inevitable disappointment of their hopes will do much to dry up the very springs of benevolence. It seems to be ordered, by a law as fixed as that of gravitation, that savage tribes shall retire and waste away before the incoming tide of civilization. The philanthropist may grieve at the immediate suffering which is thus occasioned, though he cannot but rejoice at the ultimate result. The injustice and rapacity of the new comers may increase the hardships of the natives' lot, and unnecessarily hasten their final extinction. But were the acts of the colonists regulated by the most just and tender regard for the rights of the aborigines, we cannot believe that the end would be long postponed. The native population would still dwindle away, from causes, that human wisdom cannot detect or appreciate. Positive legislation can do little or nothing to stay the evil, if it must be called one. Legal enactments are not easily enforced in new settlements, except so far as regards the intercourse of the colonists with each other, where self-interest is the powerful teacher of regard to law. The pioneers of civilization, the tamers of forests and the settlers of islands at the Antipodes, are naturally of a rugged and daring character, and the difficulties of their situation cannot tend to soften their nature. The only effectual way of preserving the natives from the superiority of the arms, or the contamination of the vices, of the settlers, is by preventing the two races from coming into immediate contact. By removing the savages to an allotted district, as remote as possible from the colonized spot, the race may be preserved, at least, for a time. This policy, as we learn from the pamphlet before us, has been adopted by the British authorities in Australia. "The whole of the aboriginal inhabitants of Van Dieman's Land, excepting four persons, are now domiciliated, with their own consent, on Flinder's Island."

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4. — *A New Spanish Grammar, adapted to every Class of Learners*. By MARIANO CUBÍ I SOLER. Sixth Edition, with corrections and improvements. Baltimore : Fielding Lucas, Jr. 1840. 12mo. pp. 294.

THE author of this work has been long and favorably known by his literary labors ; first, as a Grammarian, and a most

zealous and successful teacher of his native tongue, and afterwards as the founder and editor of the "*Revista Cubana*," a periodical, published in Havana, and conducted with great ability, though its career was short. Mr. Cubí is now Professor of Modern Languages in the College of Louisiana, where he enjoys the reputation, which his character, talents, and experience as an instructor so well deserve.

We are happy to see that Mr. Cubí's Grammar has met with such success, as to have reached, in so few years, a sixth edition. It is one of the best Spanish Grammars in use ; and is alike remarkable for correctness, perspicuity, and completeness. In the Preface to the fifth edition, the author says, that his work "has undergone corrections and improvements, successively, for the last fourteen years ;" and again, in the Advertisement to the present edition ;

"He has endeavoured to make, at each successive edition of his work, as many corrections and improvements, as experience and a better acquaintance with the comparative genius and grammar of the English and Spanish Languages would enable him advantageously to introduce. It is fondly anticipated, therefore, that a comparison of the sixth edition of this grammar with the former ones, will show, that the unremitted attempts of the author at improvement have not been altogether unsuccessful."

We may add, that this assiduous care and repeated elaboration have produced a work of great value to the student of the Spanish language.

We observe that Mr. Cubí, in common with some other Spanish grammarians, uses certain forms of orthography, which, so far as we know, have not yet met with the sanction of the Spanish Academy, "*quem penes arbitrium est, et jus et norma loquendi*,"—at least assumed, if not conceded. For instance, the letter *x* has been entirely exploded, and its place supplied by *j*, when it has the sound of *jota* ; by *s*, when it has the sound of *s* ; and by *cs*, when its original sound is preserved. We like the change in the first two cases ; but not in the last. Why substitute two letters for one ? Why not retain *x* in all cases where the original sound of that letter is retained ? Again, *j* is constantly used to express the guttural sound, to the exclusion of *ge* and *gi* even, though these forms were admitted in the former editions, and in one instance, at least, ("*plugiera*," &c., p. 103,) have escaped the author's correction in this. This change being a simplification of the orthography of the language, we think it an improvement ; though we confess our eyes are not yet accustomed to "*Jil Blas*," p. 133. Nor are we fully satisfied with the substitution of *i* for *y*, conjunction ; and its use also (in the diphthongs *ai*, *oi*, &c.) for *ay*, *oy*,

&c., though Salvá very stoutly maintains in his "Grammática," (Paris, 1830,) that *y* should only be used as a consonant. We do not note down these changes in orthography as defects; but as peculiarities. Perhaps they will finally fight their way through all opposition, and become established forms. This, however, is a question to be decided by Spaniards themselves, and not by us. After all, these changes are so trifling, that neither teacher nor pupil could be for a moment embarrassed by them in using the Grammar. Mr. Cubí has discussed the subject in detail in an article entitled "Ortografía," in the second number of his "Revista Cubana."

5. — *A Manual of Chemistry, on the Basis of Dr. Turner's Elements of Chemistry; containing, in a condensed form, all the most important Facts and Principles of the Science. Designed for a Text-Book in Colleges, and other Seminaries of Learning.* By JOHN JOHNSTON, A. M., Professor of Natural Science in the Wesleyan University. Middletown: Barnes & Saxe. 1840. 12mo. pp. 453.

THIS work, with the exception of occasional verbal alterations to adapt its parts to each other, is a reprint of such portions of the late Dr. Turner's "Elements of Chemistry," as were thought by the author suited to the wants of students in the higher order of literary institutions in this country, together with some valuable additions, not, however, of great amount, derived from other sources. No better work could have been selected, as the basis of a text-book on Chemistry, than that of Turner. With uncommon precision and elegance of language, it combines, in an unusual degree, the cardinal requisites of thorough research, sound judgment in the selection and arrangement of materials, great clearness of thought and expression, and an accurate and extensive knowledge of the subject. It is, however, too comprehensive, and embraces too great a variety of details, to be mastered in the limited time usually allotted to the science in our colleges, and Professor Johnston has done good service to the cause of education, by presenting to the public a selection of its more important parts, in a less bulky and expensive shape.

It will, perhaps, be regretted by some, that his additions are not more numerous. Since the publication of the fifth edition of "Turner's Chemistry," in the year 1834, many interesting discoveries have been made in the science; some of which, on